

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD:RLW

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSE

D:MSPENDLETON

S/S: FORTIZ

EA/IMS:MDION

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P 201523Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, PINT, MPOL, MARR, PARM

SUBJECT: SNEDDEN LETTER TO DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

REF: A. CANBERRA 893

B. CANBERRA A-27

1. ACTING SECRETARY'S REPLY TO SNEDDEN'S LETTER ON  
INDONESIA IS BEING AIR POUCHED TO YOU. TEXT FOLLOWS:  
QUOTE:

DEAR MR. SNEDDEN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 29, WHICH REACHED ME  
ONLY RECENTLY, AND FOR THE BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON DISCUS-  
SIONS IN AUSTRALIA OF INDONESIA'S POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING  
OR ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. I DO RECALL THAT THIS  
POINT AROSE DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE. WE ARE STRONGLY  
OPPOSED, AS YOU KNOW, TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND WOULD  
OF COURSE BE CONCERNED BY EVIDENCE THAT INDONESIA WAS  
GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO A NUCLEAR ARMAMENT  
PROGRAM.

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ACCORDING TO THE BEST EVIDENCE WE HAVE, HOWEVER, INDONESIA HAS ALMOST NO CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT INDONESIA'S NEW REVENUES FROM OIL MIGHT PERMIT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE PLANT AND HIRE TECHNICIANS FROM ABROAD, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS CONSIDERING SUCH A COURSE. MOREOVER, EARLIER PROJECTIONS OF INDONESIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS FROM OIL PRICE INCREASES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED AND IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE BULK OF THESE NEW REVENUES WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR CONVENTIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE INDONESIANS AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF SHARPLY LIMITED DEFENSE SPENDING, BUT GIVEN THE HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENT SUHARTO ASSIGNS TO RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANY CURRENT INTENTION OF DEVOTING TO ITS DEFENSE PROGRAM THE VAST REVENUES NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. WE WILL BE WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WITH THE CLOSEST ATTENTION, HOWEVER, AND SHARE YOUR CONCERN WITH THIS ISSUE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN AND TO CONTINUING OUR WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS.

SINCERELY, ROBERT S. INGERSOLL, ACTING SECRETARY  
END QUOTE.

2. IF YOU PERCEIVE URGENCY IN DELIVERING REPLY, YOU MAY PROVIDE TEXT TO SNEDDEN IN ADVANCE OF RECEIPT OF SIGNED LETTER. IF NOT, TEXT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FYI.

3. LETTER HAS NOT BEEN MARKED AS CLASSIFIED BUT WE WOULD EXPECT SNEDDEN TO TREAT IT WITH DISCRETION. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE062861  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MAGMICAUD:RLW  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CANBERRA 893  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SNEDDEN LETTER TO DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL  
**TAGS:** PINT, MPOL, MARR, PARM, AS, US, ID, (SNEDDEN, WILLIAM), (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S)  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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